

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 15, 1996

Published Since 1877

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AUG 20 1996

First Church, Lucedale, youth choir tours Cayman Islands

It was described as a "tour our youth choir would never forget." That description fit the First Church, Lucedale, youth choir tour held June 27-July 5.

The group, traveling to Miami, stopped enroute at First Church in Clermont, Fla., and at Atlantic Church in Margate, Fla.

Both churches experienced the moving of God's spirit as testified by Danny Davis, pastor of First Church, Clermont.

"The performance of 'The Extra Mile' was moving and inspirational. It touched many hearts and caused those in attendance to reflect upon the powerful witness each of us can have by being a friend to those around us," Davis said.

After arriving on Grand Cayman, the choir sang in a lively First Church worship service on

Sunday morning with 450 in attendance.

Immediately following the service, the church moved to Smith Cove for an outside baptismal service as two Caymanian children and one American adult were baptized.

Warm receptions and emotional services were held each day as the group presented the musical at First Church, Grand Cayman; Bosain Bay Presbyterian Church; and the West Bay Church of God.

What made this tour even more significant in the lives of this group and in those who heard them was that two members of the group had lost parents in an automobile accident.

Shiloh Pitts lost her father, David Pitts, in April. Tim Bailey lost his mother, Dianne Devaugh-

an, five days before the tour.

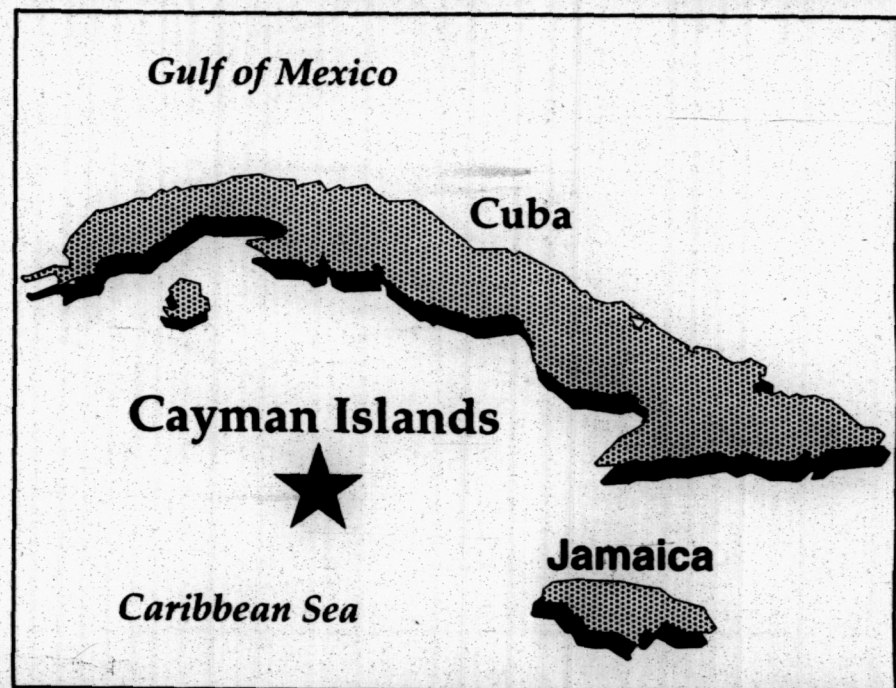
Each night, each shared before an invitation was given about how this tour was dedicated to their parents' memories and how God had given them the strength during this difficult time.

The musical, "The Extra Mile," addresses the subject of death. It was chosen long before these two tragic deaths.

Traveling home, the choir stopped at First Church, Eustis, Fla., for one of the warmest receptions of the tour.

On Sunday, July 7, at First Church, Lucedale, the group presented its home concert to a packed house.

This tearful but joyful homecoming solidified in the hearts of all who went that God had done a great work.



Baptism at Smith's Cove following Sunday morning worship



Youth choir presents "The Extra Mile" at First Church, Grand Cayman

Religion as news

Two years have passed since Peter Jennings raised eyebrows in the country's newsrooms — and his own newsroom, as well — by prodding ABC to hire Peggy Wehmeyer as the network's full-time religion reporter. Her 27 reports since then have spurred so much comment that Wehmeyer will be a full participant in coverage of the 1996 elections, said Jennings. "It is ludicrous that we are the only national television network to have a full-time religion reporter. Every other human endeavor is the subject of continuing coverage by us...," Jennings pointed out. The veteran television newsman admits Wehmeyer created some discomfort inside the network. "Some people have been uncomfortable dealing with the issues she confronts, or with the language of spirituality she often uses," Jennings said. Wehmeyer covered the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans. Jennings observed that each religion story broadcast on ABC sets off waves of reactions — some positive, some negative. "So many people seemed spooked by religion," he said.

Tell me again

Some folks may have difficulty recalling exactly where they learned the fundamentals of Christianity, but chances are the place was Sunday School, according to the leader of the Christian performing group Geoff Moore and the Distance. "It's hard to put a finger on it, but most of us learned the fundamentals through faithful Sunday School teachers. That became the foundation of biblical truth in my life," said Moore. The group's current album, "Home Run," has a song written by Moore and Steven Curtis Chapman entitled, "Tell Me Again," based on Moore's childhood experience in Flint, Mich., where Daisy Keen taught Moore in children's Sunday School. Moore has seen to it that his two sons encounter the same Sunday School experience. "That's what church really is to them. It teaches them not only a love for the faith but also a love for the church," he said. Sadly, when Moore called Keen to tell her the song was about to be released, he learned she had died two days earlier. "It became almost a memorial tribute," he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Members of Union Church, Seminary, and the pastors' conference of Covington-Jeff Davis Association protest over an editorial cartoon in "The Hattiesburg American" newspaper that they say belittles people who believe in creationism.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson announces the formation of a new department at the hospital: a 32-bed chemical dependency unit in the Gilfoy Building "unlike any other program available to alcoholics in Mississippi."

50 years ago

Statistics released by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board reveal that 95 of the top 100 financial givers among state churches are "The Baptist Record" subscribers. One must look to 39th place for the first church without the newsjournal.

"TO MY CRITICS WHO
ACCUSE ME OF LIFTING MY
SERMONS FROM BOOKS,
YOU'RE RIGHT! AND HERE
IS THE BOOK!"



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.

Of course we're not alone

"We are not alone," blared last week's headlines on scores of newspapers across the country. Ted Koppel devoted an entire "Nightline" segment to the revelation.

"If the results are verified, it is a turning point in human history," gushed one scientist. President Clinton promised to devote the "full intellectual power" of the country to study the discovery.

The object of all this excitement is known simply as Allan Hills 84001. The four-and-a-half pound rock, discovered in Antarctica 12 years ago, is thought to be a four-billion-year-old chunk of the planet Mars.

Allan Hills 84001 is alleged to have somehow been blasted off Mars, the next planet out from Earth in our heliocentric corner of the galaxy.

Allan Hills 84001 made its way to Earth — somehow — about 13,000 years ago after wandering through space for 16 million years, scientists report.

At the center of the flourish over Allan Hills 84001 are tiny bits of a chemical by-product, about one-billionth the size of a

pinhead, that researchers believe were left behind by a microscopic life form.

Mind you, scientists did not find the life forms. They found what they maintain is chemical evidence left over from the existence of life forms.

Other equally-credible scientists, however, caution that such conclusions are premature. They argue that the chemical residue might well be left over from the formation of the planet.

At any rate, the naysayers claim, the elusive extraterrestrials couldn't be more than a single-cell life form, if that much.

Whatever the petrogenesis of Allan Hills 84001, it has once again fueled debate on the origin of life on our planet and whether we are really alone in the universe.

With due deference to the scientists and theorists working on those questions, I must answer: Of course we are not alone, and there is a simple explanation for the origin of life.

As a matter of fact, the documentation has already been published.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God..." Of course we are not

alone, and never have we been alone. God has always been there.

Genesis 1:1 further states, "In the beginning God created..." There you have it. You don't need a Ph.D. degree to understand it. You don't need someone else with a Ph.D. degree to explain it to you.

You certainly don't need guesswork about interplanetary debris to help make up your mind.

Throughout the Bible, God has consistently simplified the complexity of the cosmos and our existence in it so we can each understand for ourselves how special we are to him.

Sadly, too many educated people have dismissed the straightforwardness of God's love, believing there must be more sophisticated explanations out there for humankind's existence.

As the secular world finds amusement and distraction in speculation about Allan Hills 84001, pray for wisdom to stay anchored in the Word, and for empowerment to reach a lost world that searches for eternal answers in an obscure little bit of rock.

Guest opinion...

Reconciliation, leadership needed now more than ever

By Richard Brogan

At sunrise 33 years ago, I stood in the small, crowded church yard in a tiny southern Mississippi community. I watched ebony and grey smoke rise slowly from the ruins of the Shady Oak Missionary Baptist Church.

I heard God crying — borrowing the eyes of a half-dozen black women aged by six decades. Hooded riders had used midnight as cover to hide their cowardly deed.

On the morning of June 18, 1966, I stood on the grounds of two African-American churches, Mt. Pleasant and Central Grove, near Kossuth, in north Mississippi, and revisited my grief and anger. I was again seeing the evidence of hate gone mad, using the hands of arsonists.

Out from Kossuth, and off Highway 45, human flesh repeated a repulsive act, burning a house where God is worshiped. Fire is God's tool. In the hands and majesty of the Almighty, fire can refine, test, and recreate.

May the fire of God fall into our hearts so that we can be warmed to cultivate relationships instead of destructive behavior toward our neighbor.



Brogan

Reconciliation is one of God's fire words. Can we as a people of Jehovah join him in his ministry of reconciliation? May the church of God be aflame with compassion and service.

I am grateful that 33 years ago I experienced strong leadership that keeps the flame of love burning in my heart. The work of reconciliation must continue. No person or circumstance should keep us from fighting bigotry, and her twins named Prejudice and Hate.

Jesus Christ is the model for us. He accepted persons as nouns, not adjectives. He was a Jew, but he related redemptively to Samaritan and Gentile. He not only taught openness toward the human predicament, but showed us unconditional compassion.

Who are the people in Mississippi willing to serve as midwives for interracial understanding into the 21st century? Who will construct the new human bridges for reconciliation? In whose heart does the spirit reach out beyond the same kind and kin? If not you, who? If not in the community where you live, where? If not now, when? Who will answer?

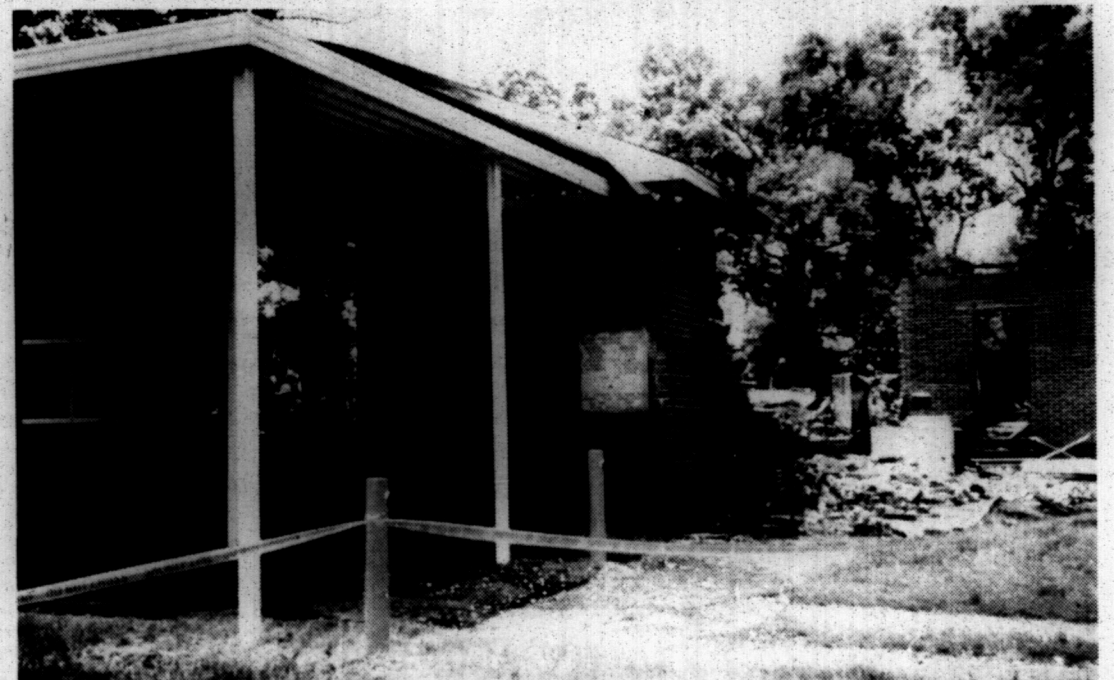
In the year I was born, 1937, John Drinkwater's life ended. He was an English poet and playwright, and he lived only 55 years. His prayer in "This Troubled World" is our challenge in the arena of race relations and reconciliation:

Grant us the will to fashion as we feel,
Grant us the strength to labour as we know,
Grant us the purpose, ribbed and edged with steel, to strike the blow.

Knowledge we ask not — knowledge Thou hast lent;

But Lord, the will — there lies our bitter need.
Give us to build above the deep intent
The deed, the deed.

Brogan is a consultant, Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Mt. Pleasant M.B. Church, Kossuth — June 18, 1996

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Tupelo NALT conference registers over 800 participants

Overflow attendance of 936 people at the Northeast Area Leadership Training Conference (NALT) Aug. 9-10 in Tupelo

exceeded expectations and spotlighted the popularity of the conference format, organizers said. Bill Smith, director of missions

for Lee Association in Tupelo, said planning centered around a goal of 800 participants, but it became obvious before the confer-

ence that the goal was too low.

"We saw that we were fast running out of space," Smith said.

Calvary Church, Tupelo, served as the host church, and First Church, Tupelo was pressed into service to help handle the overflow, he said.

"That worked real well. It was a real success story; we must have punched the right buttons on issues with which our churches are dealing," Smith pointed out.

A total of 54 conference leaders each taught four conferences in 50 minute sessions, adding up to 216 sessions available in seven time slots, Smith said.

Conference leaders included specialists from the Sunday School Board in Nashville, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson, and others that came from a four-state area,

he said.

Target audiences included pastors, church staff, Sunday School workers, discipleship training workers, music workers, Brotherhood workers, Woman's Missionary Union workers, deacons, and other church leaders.

In addition to MBCB sponsorship, Baptist association sponsors included Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Marshall, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo, Tippah, Union, and Yalobusha.

Smith said NALT organizers were pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm of attendees, and he added that another NALT may be held in about three years.

For more information, Smith can be contacted at P.O. Box 133, Tupelo, MS 38802. Telephone: (601) 566-1700.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Search process announced for first NAMB president

NASHVILLE (BP) — The process for receiving nominees for president and chief executive officer of Southern Baptists' new North American Mission Board (NAMB) and an overview of qualities sought in the new executive have been released by C.B. Hogue, chairman of NAMB's 13 incorporators.

NAMB, which will become operational at the conclusion of the 1997 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, will replace the current SBC Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission.

Naming the 13-member incorporator group was among steps approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 11-13 in New Orleans to implement the "Covenant for a New Century" restructuring that includes NAMB's creation and an overall

reduction in SBC agencies from 19 to 12.

Key among the NAMB incorporators' duties is the search process for the agency's first president. The incorporator positions were part of NAMB's charter documents; the 13-member group is to act in the agency's behalf until NAMB's initial trustees, to number around 80, are in place in June 1997.

NAMB trustees then will vote on the nominee recommended from the incorporators' search process.

According to NAMB incorporators, the search process includes these guidelines for a person to submit a nominee for NAMB president and CEO:

— "The recommender must obtain permission from the person being recommended before a resume is given to the incorporators."

— "The resume must be full with applicable education, personal background, and other pertinent data, such as experience, etc."

— "The resume should have sufficient worthy and honest references."

Resumes should be sent to Hogue at 41771 Auberry Road, Auberry, CA 93602, or to Hogue in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203.

NAMB incorporators will follow two further guidelines:

— "Resumes will be examined by the incorporators and organized according to levels of applicability."

— "All resumes will be kept confidential to protect the person nominated and the church or position of employment now held by the nominee."

The incorporators' overview of qualities sought in NAMB's new president and CEO states:

"The primary focus of the president and CEO of the North American Mission Board will be to promote reaching the lost for Christ, planting new churches, doing ministry, and the edification of Christians and churches within North America. Therefore, the President & CEO should be a Spirit-filled man of God who meets the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

"The president and CEO must be firmly committed to the Bible as the inspired, authoritative, and inerrant Word of God. He must hold to the historic Baptist doctrines set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message and be in agreement with the purpose and mission of the North American Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention. The president and CEO should be a strong leader in cooperative relationships between the North American Mission Board and the state conventions.

"The president and CEO should understand and accept the Covenant for a New Century, and the vision for this office as set forth in the bylaws of the North American Mission Board. He must be committed to the mission statements and ministries statements of the North American Mission Board and be willing to lead in a strategy for their fulfillment."

Ready to tee up

Neal Grantham (left, in photo at right), pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton, and Michael Walker (right, in photo at right), minister of youth at First Church, Laurel, prepare to play in the Mississippi College Ministerial Golf Tournament Aug. 5-6 at Live Oaks Country Club. Walker, along with teammate Chester Masterson, minister of education at First Church, Laurel, went on to win the two-man scramble by shooting a score of 136 on 36 holes. Registering teams for the Ministerial Golf Tournament at Live Oaks Country Club are (below, left to right) Heath Hillman, Linda Bass, Carole Moore, Don Lofton, and Danny Rutland. (Photos by Carl M. White)



Kerr commended

James Kerr (left), member of Second Church, Greenville, is presented the Award of Merit of the International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders by James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Kerr has been a Royal Ambassador (RA) leader for 25 years and currently serves as Washington Association Brotherhood and RA director. He was one of six recipients of the award at the Brotherhood Commission breakfast, held June 12 during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. (BR special photo)

Volunteer teachers needed in American Samoa

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Four volunteer teachers are needed immediately at the Samoan Baptist Academy on the U.S. territory of American Samoa.

Teachers are needed for fourth grade, fifth grade, language arts, and social studies.

The school is the only private Baptist school in American Samoa. The principal and all the teachers, except the computer instructor, are Mission Service Corps volunteers. Using volunteers keeps tuition affordable for families on the islands where jobs are scarce and pay is low. The church provides some scholarships to students who cannot afford tuition.

For more information or to apply for a teaching position, call 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

Land calls for retention of "second birthright"

By Carl M. White

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, was interviewed during his July 30 visit to Clarksdale (see article below right).

Q. What moral issues should concern Mississippi Baptists?

A. The Baptist Faith and Message says in section XV, "Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of God supreme in his own life and in human society."

Three issues that are of great importance are the freedom of religious expression, the sanctity of human life, and family values.

A lot of attention is focused on the freedom of religious expression at this time. The case (concerning school prayer) in Pontotoc is a good example.

Today there are people who actually believe that a student has the right to not hear another student's religious beliefs.

Before Congress is the Religious Freedom Amendment. It is important and deserves the support of all Baptists.

Q. This is an election year. What are some issues of which Baptists should be aware?

A. Never sell the birthright of the second birth to any political party or candidate. Our involvement in the political process should be based on issues, not party. Instead of asking if we agree with a candidate's position, we should be asking if the candidate agrees with us.

Q. The typical Mississippi Baptist church is small. What can the small church pastor do?

A. Upwards of 90% of the requests for bulletin inserts we receive come from small churches. They are the heart of the Southern Baptist Convention. The local pastor should preach the whole counsel of God, even the difficult parts.

2 Timothy 3:16 says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God," not just the salvation message, but all that God's Word says about all of life.

A pastor should be able to stand in the pulpit and say, "Thus

saith the Word of God," not, "The experts say," or "I say." If he will feed, grow, and build the lives of his people upon the foundation of the Word of God he won't need to be a psychologist or therapist. Where else can people go to hear what the Word of God says to our society? If we don't tell it, who will?

Q. In the next two years Southern Baptist life will experience tremendous change. How will this effect the Christian Life Commission (CLC)?

A. We think the restructuring will help the CLC be more responsive to the churches. We will be one of 12 agencies instead of one of 18. They are expecting a savings of \$35-40 million a year.

The CLC now receives .99% of all Cooperative Program funds that reach Nashville. Hopefully, this will increase. An increase in funding will mean more resources we can offer to the churches.

CLC will be the only commission left. Historically, the commissions, like the Brotherhood Commission and the Stewardship Commission, were charged to assist the churches and state conventions in their respective areas.

Today, however, the distinction between a board and a commission has been pretty much lost.

Gone are the detailed program statements that for years governed the work of the various boards and agencies of the SBC.

In the place of the program statements are shorter, simpler, and more comprehensive ministry statements.

Hopefully these ministry statements will allow us greater freedom in responding to the needs and request of the churches.

Every agency should exist to support the work of the local church, not the other way around.

I believe the restructuring will allow the CLC to focus more on the local church and be impacted more by the local church.

Q. What is new on the horizon from the CLC?

A. Beginning the third Sunday in September of 1997, an Anti-Gambling Sunday will be added as an emphasis on the denomina-

tional calendar.

Our society is revisiting gambling for the third time. Over 80 years ago most states made gambling illegal in their constitutions.

Gambling puts government in the position of promoting something that is socially detrimental. As the state draws revenue from gambling, the state becomes a broker for gambling.

That is not the role that God ordained for government.

Romans 13:3 says that the role of government is to punish evil. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil." Now, the state is promoting something evil in order to get its cut.

The CLC will develop resources to help local churches increase awareness of the evils and dangers of gambling and the biblical mandate against it.

Land declares abortion on demand "society's greatest moral failure"

By Carl M. White

"Abortion on demand is our society's single greatest moral failure," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission (CLC).

Land spoke July 30 at the annual banquet of the North Delta Association's Crisis Pregnancy Center.

The North Delta Association's ministry is affiliated with Sav-a-Life, Inc., a non-denominational pro-life ministry out of Birmingham, Ala. Bob Foust, executive director of Sav-a-Life, said there are four other ministries in Mississippi affiliated with Sav-a-Life,

Inc.: in Corinth, Southaven, New Albany, and Tupelo.

The Clarksdale ministry is the only one directly affiliated with a Baptist association, though Foust said more than 80% of the other four are led by Mississippi Baptists. Nancy Pennington, a member of First Church, Sumner, is head of the Clarksdale ministry. M.C. Johnson is the director of missions for North Delta Association.

The Clarksdale ministry is celebrating its third year of operation. In that three-year period over 800 clients have been seen. Out of those 800, 102 young women have accepted Christ, two presented babies for adoption, and seven were referred to maternity homes.

Land said there has never in history been a movement without a single central power structure that has confronted the govern-

ment at so high a level as the pro-life movement has done.

Land, referring to Deuteronomy 30:19 where Moses called on the children of Israel to choose between life and the blessing or death and a curse, said: "Our society has largely chosen death. We have moved from a sanctity of life ethic to a quality of life ethic, which makes life increasingly dangerous if you are not young and healthy."

Land commended the people of Clarksdale and North Delta Association for being on the front lines in the battle for the "greatest struggle of our lifetime... a struggle between good and evil."

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Singing About Life

Bridget Taylor, a Christian artist from Oxford, sings to children at the July 30 Crisis Pregnancy Center Banquet of the North Delta Association. (BR photos by Carl M. White)

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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 15, 1996

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



DR. ANNE DAVIS
Louisville, Ky., author,
retired dean of Carver
School of Social Work
at Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary.

MADELINE-MANNING MIMS
Tulsa, Okla., a four-time
Olympian medalist, Christian
recording vocalist.



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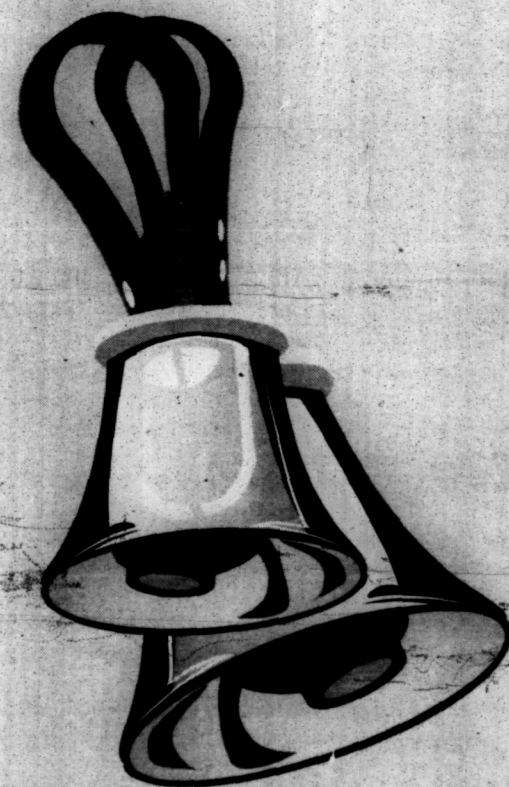
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Jackson**

September 20, 1996

*For more information, contact the Church
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968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.*



OCTOBER

The numbers indicate the day of the month
and the year of birth.
For instance, 10-78 means October 10, 1978.

OCTOBER

4-90 Mr. Micah S. McCall, P O Box 5864, Tanga,
TANZANIA; Parents: Dennis F. & Margaret; Agriculture

4-90 Miss Ann Marie Pevey, P O Box 9414, Dar es
Salaam, TANZANIA; Parents: Frank D., Jr., & Jerry Anne H.;
Mission Administration

5-86 Miss Jessica L. Baker, P O Box 4475, Dowling Park, FL 32060; Parents: Kenneth & A. Lynn,
Dentistry; SERVE IN IVORY COAST

8-90 Miss Melissa K. Shearer, Apartado 2307, Arcquipa, PERU; Parents: Kevin D. & Pam;
General Evangelism

9-79 Mr. Jonathan M. Metts, Lynx Air/Sd Dr., P. O. Box 407052, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310; Parents:
Joe M., Jr. & Angela T.; General Evangelism, SERVE IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

13-85 Angela Joy Stamps, Apartado 2340, Managua, NICARAGUA; Parents: Keith and
Penny Stamps, General Evangelism

14-83 Miss Victoria L. Harrison, 1806 S. Bay Street, Eustis, FL 32726; Parents: C. Frank, III & Phoebe K.;
Youth Evangelism, SERVE IN HONDURAS

15-83 Miss Tressa L. Presley, 3513 36th Street, Meridian, MS 39301; Parents: Johnny D. & A. Beth;
Religious Education, SERVE IN BRAZIL

16-77 Miss Rebekah E. Lay, Route 1, Box 151, Prentiss, MS 39474; Parents: W. Franklin & Margaret C.;
Pastoral Evangelism, SERVE IN COSTA RICA

19-79 Mr. John M. Vaughn, Caixa Postal 625, 95.001-970 Caixa do Sul, RS, BRAZIL; Parents:
John W. & Kathy J.; General Evangelism

20-78 Miss Amanda B. Cox, Platterstr. 174 E, D-65193, Wiesbaden, GERMANY; Parents:
J. Larry & Cheryl; Associate to Area Director, Europe

27-83 Miss Hannah M. Gray, c/o Ms. Nell Gray, P O Box 181, Leakesville, MS 39451; Parents: Tony L.
& Karen B.; Music Promotion, SERVE IN BRAZIL

28-88 Miss Chelsea L. Funderburk, Ecole Baptiste, B.P. 1171, Bouakeol, COTE D'IVOIRE
(Ivory Coast); Parents: Rickey F. & Lori D.; Mission Administration

30-82 Miss Holly L. Klesch, Ecole Baptiste de Theologie, B. P. 4860, Lome, TOGO; Parents:
Milton W. & Pamela P.; Theological Education

30-91 Miss Virginia Hutchinson, P.O. Box 413, Long Beach, MS 39560-5324; Parents:
Michael & Lynn; Church Planters, SERVE IN WEST AFRICA

31-80 Miss Ginny R. Thomas, Black Forest Academy, Postfach 1109, 7242 Kandel 1, GERMANY;
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October 4-5

Baptist Chapel of Good Shepherd, Forest

With Rev. and Mrs. David Sills, Woodland Hills Baptist Church,
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For further information, call Rev. Lowpaz, 601-469-4349.

Marriage Enrichment

October 5

First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst

With Glenn Shows, Mississippi Family Ministry Consultant
(Free Admission)

Call Robert Hanvey, 894-2767.

9:00 a.m. Registration (handouts available)

10:00 Break with refreshments

11:30 Adjourn

SENIOR ADULT REGIONAL RALLIES

September 10 — First Baptist Church, Laurel

September 12 — Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

8:30 a.m. Registration - no charge

9:00 Rally

(Laurel) "Strings and Clings", Liberty, Miss.

(Grenada) "Joyful Noisemakers" Washboard Band,

First Baptist Church, Starkville

Speaker - Dennis Lyle, Consultant with Baptist Sunday School Board
on Senior Adults, Nashville

10:00 Conferences

Adventure Recreation (fun/games)

Ronney Joe Webb, First Baptist Church, Laurel

Recovering from Losses of Life

Glenn Shows, MBCB, Jackson

Leadership

Dennis Lyle, Nashville

11:30

Adjourn

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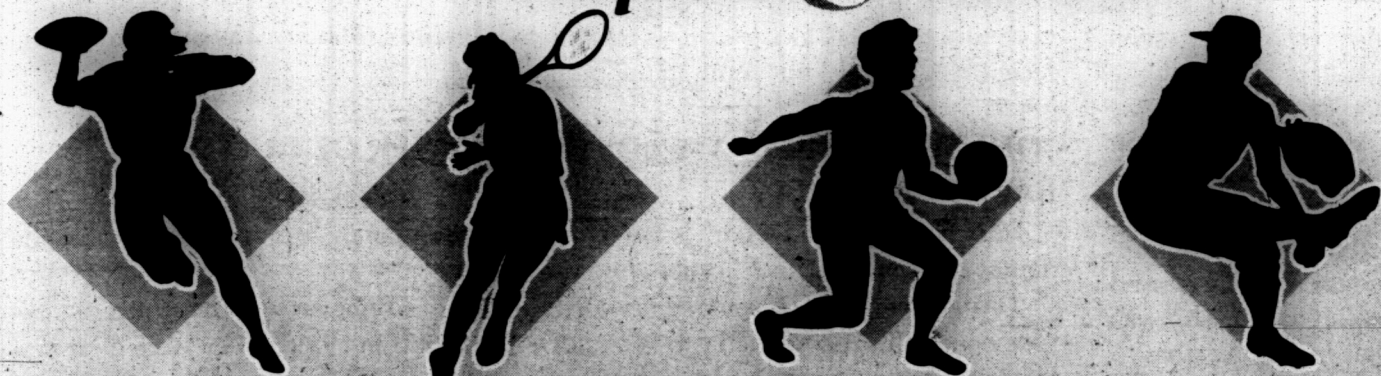
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1-6 Grades —
Vicki Smith

August 18
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Preschool —
Barry Tweedy
Younger Children —
Martha Robinson
Older Children —
Tommy Giffon
1-6 Grades —
Rusty Miller

August 24
FBC, Hattiesburg
Preschool —
Rhonda Armstrong
Younger Children —
Katrina Marler
Older Children —
Bill Barnes
1-6 Grades —
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SINGLES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 1996

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When was the last time you set aside a weekend for ministry to you? Join with other adults from throughout Mississippi as we learn, laugh, grow, and fellowship together.

FRIDAY NIGHT
Conferences with David Edwards and
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SATURDAY
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Conferences with David Edwards and
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SATURDAY NIGHT "CASUAL" DINNER
7-9 p.m.

The music of Julia Hixson
The humor of David Edwards
The message of Harold Ivan Smith

SUNDAY MORNING
Worship with David Edwards, Harold
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CONFERENCE FEE: \$25 per person

(This fee includes conferences, lunch & dinner.)

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The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is a co-sponsor of this event.

For more information or assistance with motel housing, contact the

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(601) 842-1327



HEARTSONG '96 AT GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Twenty-nine years ago Sylvia Clark attended Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Music Conference and this year she made a return visit with her church, Bethany Baptist, of Slate Springs.

Twelve youth and seven sponsors made the seven hour drive from Slate Springs to Pass Christian during the month of July, to take part in Heartsong '96. This five day music conference held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly focuses on teaching youth music in a fun way and with a Christian emphasis.

"The kids learned so much, so quickly," said Sylvia Clark, a sponsor from Bethany Baptist. "It's a great facility here (Gulfshore). I enjoyed the fellowship and the professional staff." Clark went on to tell that her mother-in-law recently passed away and her father-in-law was undergoing surgery, so she wasn't sure if she was going to be able to take part in the conference. She knew that her being able to come was meant to be when she attended the adult classes led by Judy Ann Fortenberry.

The class discussed how different generations are brought up in different ways. "This showed me ways to serve as an inspiration for the kids of the future," said Clark.

Another sponsor from Bethany Baptist was Charlotte West. Gulfshore holds a special place in her heart because she was on faculty here earlier this summer during Youth Weeks. West said she thinks it is important to first teach youth about having a relationship with Christ before we begin emphasizing the mission field. "So many times kids get caught up in the fun of mission work and think that is what it means to be a Christian. They overlook the basics of first having a relationship with

God."

This is Bethany's first year to attend Heartsong. They do not currently have a youth choir, but after attending this conference they have high hopes of having one someday soon. Most of the youth that attended were here for band purposes as opposed to singing instruction.

During the week of camp, youth were given the opportunity to try out for the orchestra that was to perform the last night of camp. Bethany was proud to be represented by four of the youth in the orchestra.

JOHNSON FAMILY ATTENDS FAMILY WEEK OF GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

An "Oasis in the Desert" is the term the Johnson family uses to describe Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian.

When Leora Johnson offered her son the chance to bring his wife, daughter, and two sons on an all expense paid trip to Walt Disney World in Florida, they were a bit hesitant because they wanted to return to Family Week at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

During Family Week there are classes and seminars offered to help parents communicate with each other and also to give them a clearer understanding of how to cope with the stresses that their children are going through on a day-to-day basis.

The Johnson family has been attending Family Week for seven years. They consider it "the best vacation ever." What do they enjoy the most? "The strengthening and encouragement of the family unit," said Glenn Johnson. "We wouldn't trade it for a trip anywhere."

Glenn is the pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Tupelo, where he resides with his wife Paula, and their three children.

Articles by Tisha P. Mercer, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Public Relations Intern

Let's pray this day for...

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chron. 7:14

Nearly six million wives are abused by their husband each year. Pray for the women and children who face the terror of physical abuse and domestic violence.

Area Preschool/Children's Choirs leadership Training, Park Place BC, Brandon, sponsored by Church Music Department.

Church visitation day in each church. Pray that many church members will decide on a definite day to visit for their church each week.

Prayer Walking groups in their community. This is church members who are "visiting" homes by on site "Prayer walking."

Basic/Advanced Certification Secretary Seminar, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department.

For your church to help start a new mission or congregation soon.

That you can work toward and provide opportunities for people from your church to hear and respond to God's call to missionary service.

The Prayer Retreat at FBC, Lucedale, August 23-24.

Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Training, FBC, Hattiesburg/Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, sponsored by Church Music Department.

African American Fellowship, Providence BC, Gautier, sponsored by Missions Extension Department.

For more people to become involved in their church's intercessory prayer ministry.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building.

For church members of each church to pray earnestly for the lost and those in need in their community, nation and world.

Churches to start new ministries to reach people and meet needs.

That our churches will set goals to increase the number of people attending Bible study (Sunday School) and worship services each week.

That the WMU and Brotherhood in each church can enlist all ages of women and men to participate in missions.

Brotherhood Leadership Week (Brotherhood Emphasis)

Churches as they teach biblical doctrines of stewardship and tithing to their members.

That our midweek prayer services will focus on world evangelism.

For Christians to give more testimonies of their salvation and answered prayer.

For people who suffer from arthritis, back pain or other bone deterioration problems.

Sunday School Leadership Conference, September 6-7, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by Sunday School Department.

For happily married couples to let the world evaluate what God is like by looking at a Christian marriage.

Season of Prayer for State Missions (WMU Emphasis)

For those who are blind. Pray that you can live by faith and not by sight.

That Christians will be willing to discipline ourselves and make sacrifices for God.

For wisdom to relate to others in all kinds of circumstances and situations.

Ask God to control you with His Spirit and give you a miracle of joy even under a difficult situation.

HOUSE TOPS

Robinhood Church, Brandon, will sponsor a youth rally on Aug. 24, 6-10 p.m. All area youth groups are invited. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Bob Ferren at (601) 825-8983 or Freddie Spears at 824-1096.

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celebrate its 130th anniversary on Aug. 25. The celebration will begin with morning worship at 11 a.m. Kenneth McMillen, former pastor, now director of missions in Livingston, Tenn., will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be served at noon. Afternoon program will include a guest singing group, recognitions, introductions, and a time of fellowship. Glenn E. Bien is pastor, Bob Moore is associate pastor, and Joe Clark is minister of music.

Kemper Association will hold an open house in its new office space on Sunday, Aug. 25, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. The association recently purchased a house which it converted for this purpose. Paul Oglesbee is director of missions.

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CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH, Tallahatchie County, is seeking a full-time pastor. Church is located 10 miles from Charleston, MS, on Tallaha Road with a parsonage. Send resume to Corinth Baptist Church, Route 1 Box 89, Tillatoba, MS 38961; Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

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Calvary, Canton: Aug. 18-21; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music; Jim Hurt, pastor.

Tomnolen, Eupora: Aug. 18-21; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, evangelist; J.B. Rowe, pastor.

Pelahatchie, Pelahatchie: Aug. 18-21; services, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Pete Evans, Marion, evangelist; Jimmy Knight, Laurel, music; Michael Glenn, pastor.

First, Glendale, Hattiesburg: Aug. 25-28; Sunday, homecoming, 9:45 a.m. Bible study, 11 a.m. worship, and noon meal; revival, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Cliff Estes, Shreveport, La., evangelist; Steve Howard, Poplarville, music; Tom Sumrall, pastor.

Antioch (Holmes): Aug. 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. service; nightly, 7 p.m.; James Garner, Yazoo Association, evangelist; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

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PART-TIME MINISTER of Music/Youth. First Baptist Church of Mount Olive is seeking a part-time minister of music and youth. Interested persons can contact Dwight Carr (601/797-3881 or 797-3890) or Rev. Donald O'Quin (797-3973 or 797-4628).

HAVE YOU CALLED Dial-A-Hymn this week? See our ad on page 4.

FOR SALE: 20 pews, padded seat and back. Glendale BC, Corinth. (601) 287-3325 or 286-2743.

Revival Dates

Euclatubba, Saitillo: Aug. 26-29; Kara Blackard, evangelist; Johnny Hearn, pastor.

Unity (Attala): Aug. 16-18;

Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, regular morning service followed by noon meal in fellowship hall; Max Jones, evangelist; Steve White, music; Jessie Scott Jr., pastor.

Staff Changes



Shumaker

Carey Springs Church, Randolph.

Westside Church, Bruce, has called **Chuck Shumaker** as pastor, effective July 28. His previous places of services were Midway Church, Vardaman, and Carey Springs Church, Randolph.

First Church, Mathiston, has called **Ben Yarber** as pastor, effective Aug. 11. **Sherry Mann** has been added to the staff as minister of youth and children, effective June 1.

Mike Montalbano has resigned as pastor at **First Church, Nesbit.** He is available as full-time pastor, interim pastor, and revivals. His phone number is (601) 429-0776.

Homecomings

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Aug. 18; 11 a.m.; noon meal; Dennis Duvall, Philadelphia, guest speaker; Robert and June Day, Shubuta, music; Billy Whitaker, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: Aug. 18; 65th anniversary; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:30 p.m., Magnolia State Quartet; Mike Alexander, guest speaker; Cletus Moak, pastor.

Euclatubba, Saitillo: Aug. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship,

11 a.m.; noon meal; The Rising Generations, music; John Hearn, pastor.

Fredonia, New Albany: Aug. 18; 10 a.m. service; noon lunch following; Junior Ritchey, former pastor, guest speaker; Joe Herndon, pastor.

First, Galilee, Gloster: Aug. 18; 172nd anniversary; 11 a.m.; Ben Carlisle, guest speaker; pot luck lunch following worship service; Sammy Smith, pastor.



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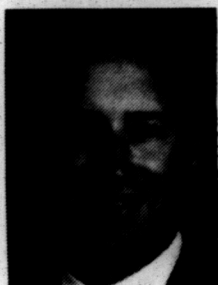
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Dr. Richard A. Powell, Pastor

Uniform Seeking forgiveness



By Jim Phillips
Psalm 51

It's an incredible discovery in the life of a believer when we realize that God chooses to both forgive and forget our sin. Only God has such an ability. He wills to forget the sin that we confess and repent of as we by faith claim Christ's death for our atonement. To pause and ponder such love and grace is overwhelmingly wondrous. How could such loving forgiveness exist in a dreadful world like ours? That is precisely the story of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 51, David is dealing with the subject of sin and forgiveness. He was reeling firsthand from the turmoil that known sin was bringing upon his soul. Out of such a felt need, he pours out his heart to God in hopes of receiving a favorable ear from the only One who could restore his tattered spirit. This psalm is the classic biblical passage for expressing our plight before God as well as the remedy that comes from seeking his forgiveness.

His plea (vv. 1-2). If grace is defined as receiving what we don't deserve, then mercy should be defined as not receiving what we do deserve. David had sinned. He knew that the severity of his sin deserved just and swift punishment from God. He also knew God — not just facts about God, but he had walked in fellowship with God. Out of that previous relationship, David believed him to be approachable.

As ugly as our sin is, it never removes us from coming into the Presence of God. As long as we are capable of humbling ourselves and falling upon his grace and mercy, we can come and present ourselves to him. "Repentance is no guarantee of God's immediate healing, but without repentance, the way to God is blocked" (Disciple's Study Bible).

His predicament (vv. 3-4). Unconfessed sin lingers in the conscience and racks havoc on the soul. Left unresolved it can physically and mentally debilitate a person. David was wrestling with just such a possibility. He makes it clear that though sin may be committed against someone else, all sin is ultimately committed against God. He sensed that regardless of where he stood with the involved party, if God were not addressed, the guilt of his sin remained. To take responsibility for our sin is to begin to take the proper steps to resolve our sin. David also knew that whatever steps God took because of his actions, that he would be justified.

His place (vv. 5-8). David knew that the mess and ugliness that his sin had brought could only be cleansed and made right by God's grace working in and through him. Because sin literally dirties the heart before God, unless God purges the soul from sin's effects, it remains soiled. The only place to take such a soul is to the throne of God. To go anywhere else would be to invite an infectious, poisonous, gangrenous spirit headed for a disastrous end. Only God could essentially wash away the permanent stain of sin (v. 8).

His pardon (vv. 9-12). Along with the forgiveness he sought from God, David also desired that the end result would result in a restored relationship with God. Out of that restored relationship would come a heart that would declare the rejoicing that was experienced prior to his failure. To know guilt and then to know unmistakable forgiveness and pardon, blesses the spirit and frees it once again to offer itself to the God who gave it in the first place. This end result may happen quickly but could possibly be long in coming since God may choose to chastise us over a period of time. Asking for God's forgiveness should never be seen as a simple quick fix.

His position (v. 13). David believed that the end result in his restored position before God would be a spokesman to forewarn others of sin's dreadful dangers. He wanted for God to appoint him a herald to thus steer others from the rocks of sure destruction. Our own testimony of God's deliverance may serve as the key that might lead another into a cleansing experience before God. Someone might come to conclude, if God can forgive that person from their failure, could he perhaps cleanse me from my sin?

It is true! Our God is a forgiving God. He offers forgiveness to all who come before him in sincere repentance and brokenness (v. 17). Only then can he set us free from the agony and misery of our sin. Don't self destruct, rather plead before a merciful God who in Christ forgives and gives.

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book Woman, dragon, beasts



By Ronald Bishop
Revelation 12, 13

Another picture of the conflict (Rev. 12). John offered a new view of the good-evil conflict in Chapter 12. This picture concerns a great omen which includes a woman, a dragon, and two beasts. The woman is described as being clothed with the sun, having the moon under her feet, and wearing a crown made of the stars. Her prominence suggests that she is the heroine of the story and is favored by God. She also is pregnant, and the delivery of her child is imminent.

Opposite the woman appears a dragon, identified as Satan, who has great power, indicated by seven heads and 10 horns. The seven crowns suggest that the evil one is in league with a worldly power. He has already caused great terror in the world and stands ready to devour the child about to be born.

The child is born, "a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron." John's readers would have known that the child was Jesus, whose mission Satan wanted to destroy. The woman seems to be the Hebrew faith, or the true people of God, from whom the Messiah arose. She ran into the wilderness where God had prepared a place to protect her and her child.

The devil and his angels were then defeated by God's angels and thrown down to earth. What follows cannot be overlooked. The defeat of evil is accomplished. The announcement goes throughout heaven that God and Christ are victorious. The brethren, or Christians, have conquered evil by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. They have remained faithful and have overcome the persecution. Though misery still was happening during John's time, the victory over Satan already was won.

The devil's response to his defeat was to pursue the woman and her child, but to no avail. God provided miraculous happenings to protect the woman (now signifying the Christian Church) and her son. Since he could not defeat them, he made war on the rest of the woman's offspring, the Christians.

The two beasts (Rev. 13). John then saw that the devil was aided by a great beast rising from the sea, often identified with the Roman Empire. The blasphemous name on the beast refers to the habit the emperors had of thinking they were gods and demanding worship. The heads refer to the various emperors, one (Nero) who had received a mortal wound but had recovered. Note verse 4: men worshiped the dragon (Satan) because he had given his power to the beast.

The persecution of Christians was due to Satan's hatred of God. The beast received its power from the devil himself. A smaller beast, probably symbolizing the Roman military, enforces emperor worship. This beast made life miserable for first-century Christians, restricting their ability to buy and sell unless they worshiped the emperor.

John resisted naming this beast, probably because he knew what the Romans would do if they intercepted and understood this writing. The number 666 is a tripling of the number 6, which meant imperfection. When tripled, the number suggested the most sinister power possible.

Who is this beast? People have suggested figures in nearly every generation who seem to fit the bill. John probably had in mind the Roman military establishment under the emperor Domitian.

These chapters seem to be John's answer to the question, "Why is this persecution happening?" John told the Christians that God was not afflicting them. He was protecting them from Satan who was trying to destroy God's work. Satan had given his power to the Romans who were helping him. Though times looked bleak, God's victory over Satan was assured, for it already had occurred.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work A just government



By Cynthia Douglas
Proverbs 21-31

How can I help to secure a just government? This question is explored in the fifth session of the unit, "Aiming for Excellence." Other sessions have included using speech wisely, strengthening home life, applying biblical principles of work and finance, and building better relationships. Five characteristics of a just government are examined in this unit.

Each person's vote is important in determining an election. In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the Presidency of the United States.

In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service — just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.

One vote — your vote — is important.

Government's foundation: the sovereign God (Prov. 21:1; 30-31). God is sovereign and is the ultimate ruler over all things. God is superior to every king, president, or leader. Sometimes the earthly ruler does not make wise or good decisions but the ruler is an instrument in God's hands. God's directing of the leader is likened to directing a stream of water or an irrigation ditch (21:1). Verse 30 restates the absolute reign of God. He is the undisputed ruler of earth.

Military preparedness is described in verse 31 yet only God can give the victory. Therefore, God desires to be the foundation of a government. Ultimately, he is the ruler whether or not the citizens admit it. He alone can give wisdom, peace and victory.

Government's aim: a righteous nation (Prov. 14:34). Wise nations not only acknowledge God's sovereignty, they promote what is right. The aim of a government, according to God's plan, is to be righteous. Righteous means being just, fair, upright, free from wrong or sin.

However, "sin is a disgrace to any people" (v. 34b). Sin, whether by leaders or citizens, brings shame and scandal to a nation. History reveals sin leads to the downfall of a nation. Is your sin a contributing factor to the condition of the government? God holds each citizen accountable for their actions. Are you doing your part to help our nation be a righteous nation?

Government's example: godly leaders (Prov. 16:12; 20:28; 28:2; 29:4). Godly leaders give stability to a nation. These verses give five qualities of a godly leader. First, a leader is to detest wrongdoing, both in his personal life and in those for whom he is responsible (16:12). Proverbs 20:28 gives two qualities becoming to a leader — love and faithfulness.

The leader is to encourage mutual loyalty and respect, thus making a secure relationship. The fourth quality, in verse 28:2, is to be a man of understanding, one who can provide stability. Proverbs 29:4 describes the fifth quality of ruling justly and refusing to take bribes.

Government's duty: equal justice (Prov. 24:23-25). Wise nations strive to administer justice impartially. "To show partiality in judging is not good" (v. 23). Also the guilty should not be found innocent. The teaching of these verses is to administer fair and equal justice to all, then God says rich blessings will come to the nation. Courts of law are not to show favoritism but are to render just and fair verdicts. All governments should assure justice without regard to standing and status in life.

Government's heart: compassionate help (Prov. 31:8-9). The fifth characteristic of a just government is to be compassionate and to defend the rights of the disadvantaged. God instructs the government and the church to be generous and kind to those in genuine need. Verse 8 tells us to speak up for the rights of those who are destitute. The ultimate duty of a leader and a governing body is to provide for the needs of the citizens, especially for those who are incapable of providing for themselves.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**MAY 5, 1996-
MAY 31, 1996**

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(to be continued)



BCV staff honor Eloise Avery at a luncheon for her eight and a half years of service as a Child Care Worker on the India Nunnery Campus. Eloise will return to her home in Eupora, but will continue to offer her assistance in the cottages as she is needed.



Bobby and Edna Warren, Child Care Workers on our Dickerson Place Campus in Brookhaven, received service pins for their commitment to caring for children.

capsules

TRANSPLANT OVERSEAS A FIRST IN MISSION-RELATED HOSPITAL: ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP) — In July, doctors at the Baptist Medical Center in Asuncion, Paraguay, performed what is believed to be the first heart transplant in an overseas Southern Baptist mission-related hospital — and the first in Paraguay. Receiving a new heart was Pedro Nunez, 36. He was released July 22, recovering satisfactorily. "The practice of organ donation in Paraguay is relatively unknown, and not well accepted due to cultural and religious beliefs," said Marlin Harris, a Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary from Prattville, Ala., and the medical center administrator. The Baptist Medical Center was started by Franklin Fowler, a former missionary and staff member of the FMB. Management and ownership were transferred to a Paraguayan board of administrators in May 1995, after a transitional 10-year partnership with Baptist Medical Center of Jacksonville, Fla. "The event made the public aware of the tremendous value and need for organ donation," said Harris. "The history of Baptist Medical Center in Paraguay will now be remembered in two great testaments: before the transplant and afterwards," he added. "We are now in a new era. We do not fully understand why the Lord chose to use our institution for this event of such national prominence, but we know he has his purpose, and we desire to be faithful to it."

ANNUITY BOARD TOPS \$5.4 BILLION, RETIREMENT, RELIEF SET RECORDS: BOSTON (BP) — Assets of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention reached \$5.423 billion on June 30, 1996, a 13.1% increase in 12 months. Retirement and relief benefits set new records for the first six months of 1996. Contributions to participant accounts that totaled \$130 million, along with earnings of \$291 million in the January-June period, pushed total assets to a new record. Board treasurer Harold D. Richardson said total earnings for the first six months were the second highest in the 79-year history of the board, exceeded only by the record of the same six months in 1995. Richardson reported benefits paid January through June totaled \$107 million, and total benefits for the year are expected to exceed \$200 million for the first time.

RELIGIOUS NETWORK GETS NEW NAME: NEW YORK (ABP) — The Faith & Values Channel announced July 22 that it will adopt a new name, Odyssey, and a new logo beginning with its fall season Sept. 29. The changes will be made to increase the size of its audience without sacrificing its core viewers, according to a press release. Many different religious groups air programs on the channel. The Radio and Television Commission, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, will continue to provide 20 hours of programming per week for Faith & Values, said Jack Johnson, president of the commission. Baptist programs such as "The Baptist Hour" and "Invitation to Life" appear on the network.

"SBC LIFE" ASSOCIATE EDITOR JOINS BSSB'S "HOME LIFE": NASHVILLE (BP) — Jon Walker, associate editor of "SBC LIFE," newsjournal of the Executive Committee, will become editor of the Baptist Sunday School Board's "Home Life" magazine Sept. 1. Walker will become the fifth editor of the magazine which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in January 1997 with a special edition that will include a brief history of the magazine and editorials by former editors. Walker joined "SBC LIFE" July 1994. Prior to that, he was news and information director for Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., from 1992-94. He has worked as a freelance writer and producer of video programs and as an audiovisual/television production manager for the Alachua County School Board, Gainesville, Fla.

NEW YORK CONVENTION NAMES STRINGER AS INTERIM EXEC: EAST SYRACUSE, N.Y. (BP) — Dan C. Stringer has been elected interim executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York, according to Terry Robertson, chairman of the convention's executive board. Stringer's term of service began Aug. 1 and will conclude Nov. 9 of this year. The convention's executive director search committee, meanwhile, has announced it will receive resumes of nominees through Nov. 30. Resumes may be sent to Bruce Aubrey, committee chair, Northside Baptist Church, 7965 Oswego Road, Liverpool, NY 13090. Only resumes which include a cover letter of nomination written by someone other than the nominee will be considered.

ADD EASTER '97, MARCH 30, TO SBC PLANNING CALENDAR: NASHVILLE (BP) — There's a key omission in the Southern Baptist Convention's "1996-97 Calendar of Activities." Easter 1997, March 30. The calendar is a 16-month, September-December long-range planning calendar used by church leaders and produced by the SBC Executive Committee. The omission "reflects the humanity (clerical error) of persons who process vast quantities of print material day after day," said Ernest Mosley, SBC Executive Committee executive vice president. "The omission does not represent official action of the Southern Baptist Convention," he joked, adding it is akin to the popular Easter sermon title, "What If There Were No Easter?" "Perish the thought!" Mosley said.

President signs legislation forming gambling commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Clinton has signed into law legislation establishing a panel to study the effects of gambling on American society.

Acting Aug. 3, Clinton signed the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act, which provides for a nine-member commission to study the social and economic effects of gambling on government, communities, families, businesses, and individuals.

"The commission will help draw attention to the growth of the gambling industry and its consequences," the president said in a prepared statement. "Too often, public officials view gambling as a quick and easy way to raise revenues, without focusing on gambling's hidden social, economic, and political costs."

"Such a balanced study will be invaluable to public officials as they make policy decisions con-

cerning this important issue."

The next step will be the appointment of the commission members. The panel will have three members appointed by the president, three by the Senate majority leader and three by the speaker of the House. The appointments must be made within 60 days after Clinton's signing.

"This is a very important piece of legislation which has been passed," said Will Dodson, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "Everyone knows that the impact of gambling has risen dramatically in this country. It is important now that the individuals appointed to the commission be of the highest credibility and character in order to withstand the many pressures they will face."

The law requires the commission to make its report no more than two years after its first meeting. The cost of the commission will be about \$5 million, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate.

The last national study of gambling came in 1976, when few states had legalized gambling. Twenty years later, only a few states have no form of legal gambling.

The House of Representatives passed the bill July 22 by voice vote, following by only five days Senate approval. The House had passed a slightly different version in March but chose to OK the Senate's version rather than allow the different versions to go to potentially drawn-out negotiations in a House-Senate conference committee.

Sen. Paul Simon, (D.-Ill.), and Rep. Frank Wolf, (R.-Va.), were the chief sponsors of the legislation in their respective chambers.

The Christian Life Commission was among the many supporters of the legislation. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June approved a resolution endorsing a gambling commission.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Our son-in-law took away our grandson when my daughter was killed in an auto accident. He has no compassion for us. How can I cope with my double loss?

You should share your feelings with your son-in-law. He needs to know what you are feeling, and you need to express your feelings even though he may not act on what you tell him. Try to understand what he is going through. Men handle grief and loss much differently than women. They often get busy doing other things to distract from the hurt, and it may be too painful to see you just now. Men sometimes want to move past their grief and not look back. I'm not saying this is good, but it is a fact even though this denial may prolong the grieving process and cause more problems in the future. Make the most of the time you do have with your grandson. Love him as much as possible, even though it is not as often as you would like. Send cards on special occasions to both your grandson and your son-in-law. Be gracious in the face of these difficulties, and watch what blossoms in such fertile soil.

My ex-wife allows our eight-year-old to sleep with her. This concerns me, but she is a dominating woman and wouldn't welcome comments from me.

Since you can't approach your ex-wife, spend time with your son to ensure that you develop the type of relationship a son needs with his father. Your son needs you as a godly role model even though you are divorced from his mother. Take every moment you can to show your love for him and to encourage development of his masculinity. Be open when your son brings up the subject; don't condemn his mother or shame him. Talk with him to find out what he derives from sleeping with his mother. He may not think much about it now, but as he matures he will feel the need to talk with you as he becomes more uncomfortable with the situation. Damage won't be great at this age, but it is important that you be accessible to him as he grows so he can see Christian manhood in action. Remember — you're not doing this to spite your ex-wife. You're doing this because you want to build character and integrity in your son.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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AFZIZAAZBOY TOD: OZOD

This week's clue: Z equals I.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalms Twenty-Three: Four.

Baptist Record

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